Voluntary Retirement Scheme to reduce surplus manpower

3483. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bureau of Public Enterprises is going to introduce a voluntary retirement scheme to reduce surplus manpower in central public enterprises;

(b) the details/features of the scheme;

(c) the reasons for introducing this scheme; and

(d) by when this scheme is likely to be effective?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) Voluntary Retirement Scheme for the employees of Central Public Sector Enterprises is already in operation. This was introduced by the Bureau of Public Enterprises in October 1988 with a view to reducing surplus manpower. The details/features of the scheme are as under:

(i) An employee who has completed 10 years of service or completed 40 years of age may seek voluntary retirement by a written request.

(ii) The management of the enterprise will have the right not to grant voluntary retirement for reasons to be recorded in writing.

(iii) An employee seeking voluntary retirement would be entitled for the following terminal payment:—

(a) The balance in his Provident Fund Account payable as per the CPF regulation.

(b) Cash equivalent of accumulated earned leave as per the rules of the enterprise.

(c) Gratuity as per the Gratuity Act or the gratuity scheme applicable to the employee.

(d) One months'/three months' notice pay (as per the conditions of service applicable to him).

(e) Ex-gratia payment equivalent to $1\frac{1}{2}$ months' emoluments (Pay + D.A.) for each completed year of service or the monthly emoluments at the time of retirement multiplied by the balance months of service left before normal date of retirement, whichever is less.

Patent granted in USA for use of turmeric

3484. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has filed in protest to the patent granted in the USA for use of turmeric for wound healing;

(b) if so, what are the reactions to the said petition filed before the US patent office;

(c) whether the Government made any contract with the US Government on the above matter; and

(d) if so, the response of the US Government, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) Appropriate action is being taken by CSIR in the matter.

Survey by Geological Survey of India

3485. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Geological Survey of India has made any survey in Gujarat during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated deposits of each metals/minerals; and

(d) the steps taken by Government for their proper exploration?